Special Status to Backward States

2189. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state'

(a) whether Government of India has so far accorded special status to some of the backward States for grant of loan and aid under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme;

(b) if so, what is the criteria of categorization the States under APDRP, decided till date;

(c) whether Government of India propose to accord special status to the State of Rajasthan in consideration of its being the Border States and being a famine ridden backward State to bring it at par with other backward States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under APDRP scheme, funds are provided through a combination of grant and loan to the Special Category States (all North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and J&K) as additional Central Plan Assistance to finance 100% of the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% soft loan. In respect of other States (Non-Special Category), APDRP will finance 25% of the project cost as grant and balance 75% will have to arrange from PFC/REC or other financial institutions as counter-part funds.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal before the Government for including Rajasthan in the list of Special Category States. Most States that have been granted Special Category Status during the last two decades have been created out of small Union Territories or from districts of some other States necessitating creation of overheads and administrative infrastructure that was out of proportion to their resource base.

Centrally sponsored schemes In Uttaranchal

2190. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored schemes, which are being implmented in Uttaranchal till date, indicating the names of such schemes, date from which being implemented and their physical progress since the start of the schemes, year-wise, the financial progress and the present status;

(b) whether Government have set up any advisory Committee in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in operation at the beginning of 2006-07 is reported to be 155, which includes those being implemented in Uttaranchal also. The formulation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes is the responsibility of the concerned administrative Ministry/Department in consultation with the State Governments/UTs and are implemented eventually by the State Governments/UTs/their Agencies. These schemes are designed with a specific objective(s) and are monitored by the administrative Ministries concerned. The pattern of funding of these schemes varies from 100% Central assistance to 50%, the remaining part is to be borne by State Government/Agencies and the beneficiaries. The physical and financial performance of the scheme is taken into account while releasing the Central share and at the time of Quarterly/Half Yearly Performance Review Meetings and at the time of Annual Plan discussions with the States.

In pursuance of the decision taken in a meeting of National Development Council (NDC), a Committee of the NDC was set up on the transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman. Planning Commission with members from both the States and Centre. The terms of reference of the Committee are (1) to identify the CSS for retention by the Centre and those for transfer to the States/UTs and to classify all the CSS accordingly; (2) for those CSS which will be identified for transfer to States/UTs, suggest the modalities of transfer including earmarking, the funding pattern, the timeframe for the transfer and the monitoring mechanism; (3) in order to avoid future proliferation of CSS, lay down the criteria for introduction of new CSS. The Committee has not finalized its Report.

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

†2191. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 10 districts have been coverd under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any proposal to cover other backward districts under this scheme is pending; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.